

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A power toothbrush, comprising:

a brushhead assembly, the brushhead assembly including a mounting shaft on which is positioned a brush bristle unit for brushing teeth and a force conversion assembly adapted and arranged to convert a driving force into a movement of the mounting shaft to move the bristle unit in an oscillating manner to accomplish cleansing of the teeth;

a handle to which the brushhead assembly is removably attached, the handle having a fixed receiving portion, which includes an upper hollow portion into which a lower part of the force conversion assembly fits; and the brushhead assembly including a force conversion assembly adapted for mating with the receiving portion of the handle, the brushhead assembly further including a mounting shaft in which is positioned a bristle unit for brushing teeth; wherein the force conversion assembly is adapted and arranged to convert a driving force into a movement of the mounting shaft to move the bristle unit in a manner to accomplish cleansing of the teeth, wherein the power toothbrush includes;

an attachment system which includes a first connection arrangement comprising a part on the hollow portion of the fixed receiving portion and a corresponding mating part on the force conversion assembly between the force conversion assembly and the fixed receiving portion of the handle for positively preventing rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle; wherein the force conversion assembly further includes at least one engaging member which, when the brushhead assembly is operatively positioned in the receiving portion, extends at least partially into an opening in the receiving portion of the handle, which tends to prevent positively prevents translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle during operation of the toothbrush, wherein the attachment system is configured and arranged such that the brushhead assembly is removed from the handle or inserted into the handle linearly, directly toward and away from the handle, without rotation of the brushhead assembly being necessary to tighten the brushhead assembly onto the handle or loosen it therefrom.

2. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 1, wherein the force conversion

assembly comprises a combination of a spring assembly which is responsive to a driving force to move the mounting shaft, and a carrier assembly which fits together with the spring assembly and engages the receiving portion of the handle.

3. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the spring assembly/carrier assembly combination includes two opposing spring finger members which depend downwardly from an upper edge thereof, mating securely with two associated openings in the receiving portion to prevent translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle.

4. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 3, wherein each spring finger member includes an ear portion at a lower end thereof which fits into its associated opening in the receiving portion.

5. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 4, wherein the brushhead assembly further includes a housing portion and wherein the attachment system includes a disengaging member mounted in the housing and movable such that it acts against the engaging member present in the opening, forcing it out of the opening, so that the brushhead assembly can be readily moved away from the receiving portion.

6. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 1, wherein the first connection arrangement includes an opening in a wall portion of the force conversion combination, adapted to mate snugly with a rib portion on an internal surface of the receiving portion of the handle.

7. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 6, including a second connection arrangement which includes a cut-out section in the receiving portion, the cut-out section extending downwardly from an upper edge of the receiving portion, and wherein the force conversion assembly includes a portion which mates snugly with said cut-out portion.

8. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 2, wherein the carrier assembly

includes a portion thereof adapted to carry a fluid pump for moving fluid from a reservoir to the bristle unit.

9. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 7, wherein the first and second connection arrangements approximately oppose each other around the peripheries of the receiving portion and the force conversion assembly.

10. (currently amended) A power toothbrush, comprising:
a brushhead assembly;

a handle to which the brushhead assembly is removably attached, the handle having a fixed receiving portion, the brushhead assembly including a force coupling assembly adapted and arranged to couple a driving force produced by a driver portion of the power toothbrush to a mounting shaft on which a set of bristles is mounted, wherein the fixed receiving portion includes an upper hollow portion into which a lower portion of the force coupling assembly fits; and

a brushhead attachment system, wherein the force coupling assembly includes a slot therein into which a rib member on an internal surface of the hollow portion of the fixed receiving portion of the handle snugly fits to positively prevent rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle and wherein the force coupling assembly includes at least one engaging member which, when the brushhead assembly is operatively positioned in the receiving portion of the handle, extends at least partially into an opening in the receiving portion, tending to prevent positively prevents translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle during operation of the toothbrush.

11. (previously presented) The power toothbrush of claim 10, wherein the attachment system is configured and arranged to permit the brushhead assembly to be removed from the handle or inserted into the handle in a linear movement thereof, without rotation of the brushhead assembly.

12. (currently amended) A power toothbrush, comprising:

a brushhead assembly which includes an attachment system;
a handle to which the brushhead assembly is removably attached attachable , the handle having a fixed receiving portion with a hollow part at an upper end thereof, into which a lower portion of the attachment system fits, wherein the brushhead assembly includes a first ~~connection portion part~~ which mates with a first part ~~of~~ on the hollow portion of the fixed receiving portion to prevent rotational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle and a second, separate ~~connection portion part~~ which mates with a second, separate part of the receiving portion to positively prevent translational movement of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle, wherein the attachment system is configured and arranged to permit the brushhead assembly to be removed from the handle or inserted into the handle linearly, without rotation of the brushhead assembly relative to the handle.